

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
U.S. INTEGRATED OCEAN OBSERVING SYSTEM ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MEMBERSHIP BALANCE PLAN**

1. **Name.** United States Integrated Ocean Observing System Advisory Committee
2. **Authority.** The U.S. Integrated Ocean Observing System Advisory Committee (“the Advisory Committee”) was established by the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere in the Under Secretary’s capacity as National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Administrator as directed by Section 12304(d) of the Integrated Coastal and Ocean Observation System Act (“the Act”), part of the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (33 U.S.C. §§ 3601-3610; Public Law 111-11, Subtitle C). The Advisory Committee shall function solely as an advisory body and in accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), 5. U.S.C., App., as amended.
3. **Mission/Function.** The Committee, per Section 12304(d) of the Act, shall advise the NOAA Administrator and the IOOC on:
  - administration, operation, management, and maintenance of the U.S. IOOS, including integration of Federal and non-Federal assets and data management and communication aspects of U.S. IOOS, and fulfillment of the purposes set forth in Section 12302 of the Act, 33 U.S.C. § 3601;
  - expansion and periodic modernization and upgrade of technology components of U.S. IOOS;
  - identification of end-user communities, their needs for information provided by U.S. IOOS, and U.S. IOOS’ effectiveness in disseminating information to end-user communities and the general public; and
  - any other purpose identified by the Administrator or the IOOC.
4. **Points of View.** The Committee shall be composed of approximately 12 members appointed by the NOAA Administrator. Expertise needed to accomplish U.S. IOOS Advisory Committee tasks and provide necessary perspectives include the following. The optimal number of representatives in each interest area is noted in parentheses.
  - Scientific institutions (2)
  - Marine Technology industries (2)
  - Coastal & Great Lakes use industries (Shellfish, Finfish, Aquaculture, Ocean Energy) (1-2)
  - Non-governmental organizations (Ocean conservation, recreation, non-consumptive use) (2)
  - State, Local, Tribal interests (1)
  - National/International Ocean Leaders (1-2)

Membership Balance is not static and may change.

5. **Other Balance Factors.** Appointments should consider geographic diversity, expertise in ocean observing systems or their use, leadership of ocean observing issues, experience working productively with Committees and workgroups, and representation of ethnic and gender diversity.

6. **Candidate Identification Process.** Candidates are identified through the following process. A call for applications is published in the Federal Register. In addition, the call for applications is posted on the [ioos.noaa.gov](http://ioos.noaa.gov) public website and is sent to newsletters and organizations representing the interest groups represented on the Committee. A review group from NOAA and the IOOC review the candidates. This group includes the Director of the U.S. IOOS Program Office, members of the IOOC, and program staff from the U.S. IOOS Program Office. Using criteria described above (both interest areas and other balance factors), the review group recommends a slate of nominees and alternates to the NOAA Administrator that collectively address the Committee needs for expertise, diversity and balance. The NOAA Administrator reviews the nominees and may approve or reject any of the nominees. Nominees approved by the NOAA Administrator are then offered appointment and begin the background check process upon acceptance of the offer of appointment.

In the event of a vacancy, the review group described above will consult to confirm the vacancy should be filled by the interest group that formerly occupied it, or to develop a rationale for modifying the balance on the Committee. Once the sector has been confirmed or modified, the U.S. IOOS Program Office follows the recruiting process described above. A vacancy appointment shall be for the remainder of the unexpired term of the vacancy, and an individual so appointed may be subsequently appointed for two full 3-year terms if the remainder of the unexpired term is less than one year.

Members are appointed for one three-year term, renewable once. Member terms will be staggered to prevent the loss of institutional memory when terms expire, with the goal of no more than one half of the Committee's membership terms expiring annually.

7. **Subcommittee Balance.** The U.S. IOOS Advisory Committee makes a proactive effort to ensure balance on any Subcommittees. Members are asked for their preference regarding Subcommittee assignment, but are informed that they may not receive their first choice if changes must be made to ensure balance. The Designated Federal Officer, subject to the approval of the NOAA Administrator, makes final Subcommittee assignments based on member preferences, areas of expertise, and geographic balance.
8. **Date Prepared/Updated.** October 5, 2016.